

# Blackpool 2023: The 159th Annual Meeting

*Club Journal* presents the Official Minutes of the 159th Annual Meeting of the Union, chaired by Union President George Smith, which took place in Blackpool on Saturday, April 15



The 159th Annual Meeting took place on Saturday, April 15 at Blackpool's Grand Hotel with The Worshipful The Mayor of Blackpool in attendance

The 159th Annual Meeting of the Union, held in the Royal Suite of the Grand Hotel in Blackpool on Saturday, April 15 began with **GEORGE SMITH, THE PRESIDENT** of the Union, introducing **THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF BLACKPOOL, COUNCILLOR KATHRYN BENSON**.

**THE MAYOR** issued a Civic Welcome to delegates.

**THE PRESIDENT** thanked **THE MAYOR** and asked delegates to agree the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting held on Saturday, April 9, 2022 as per the May 2022 edition of *Club Journal*.

With the 2022 minutes approved, **BOB RUSSELL CMD**, the NEC Member for the Wessex Branch and Western Counties and Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, introduced the other members of the Committee present at the meeting:

Glenn Doyle of Leeds Branch, Dave Norman of Heavy Woollen Branch and NEC Members Chris O'Neill CMD ACM, Geoff Blakeley CMD ACM and Dave Gravel CMD.

**THE PRESIDENT** then asked the assembled delegates to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of those club member who have passed away since the last Annual Meeting, as well as to give thoughts to the Ukrainian people.

#### **THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:**

"I will start with a word about yesterday's Beer & Trades Exhibition which saw Preferred Suppliers Card Industry Professionals, Dransfields, Greene King, Higos and Pure Purchasing all in attendance, alongside other exhibitorw.

"The latter company is, together with the NEC, trying to work out a system with the pass cards which may help to

improve their use by members. This may well be in the shape of a lottery which may be covered later in this meeting.

"We must not forget that we need pass cards to keep the Union running. They are a mainstay of the Union and any improvement to keep these pass cards would, for me, be beneficial for the organisation.

"All the companies at the trade show, your NEC and your branches have worked to bring much needed revenue to our clubs.

"We'd also like to thank Nathan Clarke, the youngest member of our NEC, for the excellent CIU Showcase evening he arranged at Viva last night, along with Sean Ferris and Justin O'Regan of our *Club Journal* team.

"To move on, we must look at the existing state of our Union. Some still say – maybe rightly so – that we're still living in the past. I must say I'm part of

the past.

“I’ve been in the Union for 63 years and I know there are members in this room who have been involved even longer. We must not forget the input of our members in the past, and the contribution that they gave to the Union.

“Maybe we can resurrect some of their ideas and add them to the ideas of the younger elements around our clubs and try to move forward.

“Some clubs have given up a room for the young ones with the facilities that they require – not the ones that we think they require – and given them a chance to ask us for the stuff that they want. Obviously, this is being monitored by the committees of the clubs that are doing this.

“I think if a few more clubs did this, we might bring more young people in to see the facilities and the entertainment and everything that goes on in our clubs.

“I mentioned {NEC Member} Nathan Clarke earlier. There are more like Nathan, and we must encourage them to join us, to help run their clubs – male and female – and to enjoy the social side of our club life.

“We have an excellent team of lecturers working on our Award in Club Management (ACM) courses which help the young and not so young with the running of their clubs.

“We are currently arranging these in venues around the country at the moment to avoid members from travelling too far to attend these courses.

“Now, thank God, we’ve passed the Covid crisis and hopefully we’ll be joining up with the Parliamentary Group of club associations again, in which we can enlist the help of certain MPs with certain problems we encounter with councils, utility companies and grants that should have been given to our clubs which sometimes we’ve got to fight for, as well as new legislation and laws and everything pertaining to the successful running of our clubs.

“We are social community clubs and we are the people who give MPs the backing in their campaigns for them to enter parliament. Now, we need their



Union President George Smith chaired the 159th Annual Meeting

help in our campaign to keep our Union running.

“On the social side, we attempted to restart your national games tournaments – darts, snooker, pool, dominos, etcetera – but, again, we need your backing, we need the clubs’ backing to restore games to what they used to be in the past. It was big in the past – why can’t it be the same now? We can make this happen together.

“I’d like to mention the annual fee. At the moment, it’s 50p a member. We now find that we have clubs not being able to pay the fee and dropping out of the Union.

“However, we are finding out that some of the clubs are realising the benefits they lose by doing this. The benefits I can’t mention at the moment, otherwise I’d be here until ten o’clock tonight! Now, they are reapplying, they re-join the Union, which is not a problem. We will welcome them back into the fold as soon as they like, as quickly as possible.

“We all know that we are

haemorrhaging clubs. Many of our clubs are not able to move with the times, mainly because they can’t get the committees.

“The members won’t put {themselves} up for the committees. Another reason is when there’s a change of officials – new officers – some not familiar with the running of the club, consequently they ignore the club rules which were put there by the members for the members.

“They take over the club, dropping out of the Union without the knowledge of the members and relate to their own rules, which are nil, and the club’s rule book and the constitution are thrown into the bin.

“Again, our ACM course can help these people before these things happen. The NEC members behind me and your office staff, led by Stephen Goulding, are here to help you at Branch and Head Office level. We are here to help you.

“We need your help too. Together, we can move forward. A bit of a push and

we can move forward.

“I would like to thank our General Secretary, Ken Green, for the help and guidance he’s given me and the rest of our NEC members, and I thank our Vice-President Ken Roberts for helping me throughout. I would also like to thank Allyn Walton, our Union solicitor, for the excellent work he carries out for our clubs throughout the countries – that’s what he keeps saying, anyway!

“Also, I’d like to thank Sean Ferris and Justin O’Regan for the excellent work they do with the *Club Journal* and keeping us in the picture.

“I thank you all, members, for coming here today and the work you do to keep our clubs moving forward.

“I’d also like to extend our thoughts to {former Union General Secretary} Kevin Smythe and his good wife, and we all hope obviously that he makes a recovery from his current condition.

“Just remember, us up here on the stage here, you put us here, you put us in this position. We’re here for you to use. Please use us.

“God bless, just keep on clubbing. Thank you.”

There followed a speech by **PAUL MAYNARD**, the Member of Parliament for Blackpool North and Cleveleys, who talked about the

importance of members’ clubs to their local communities and gave his thoughts on how the CIU could help revitalise the club sector.

The second guest speech of the morning was made by award-winning author and broadcaster **PETE BROWN** who spoke about his latest book *Clubland: How the Working Men’s Clubs Shaped Britain* and shared his five-point plan to help clubs attract more members.

### THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2022 Annual Report was then proposed for acceptance by NEC Member **NATHAN CLARKE** and formally seconded by **UNION VICE-PRESIDENT KEN ROBERTS CMD ACM**.

The report was accepted unanimously on a show of hands.

### THE 2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In presenting the Union’s Annual Financial Statement, **UNION ACCOUNTANT UTO EKANEM** said: “Mr President, delegates and guests, I always consider it an honour to present the financial report of this Union to our distinguished guests and delegates on behalf of the National

Executive Committee.

“I, however, regret to note that the numbers are not encouraging for the year to September 2022. In a nutshell, there is much room for improvement.

“We may, however, draw some consolation in the new opportunities that the new year will avail us to consider the details of our past performance, identify areas of concern and draw up strategies for a better performance in 2023.

“First of all, I would like to give an overview of the income statement for the year to September 2022.

“The year recorded a very bleak result due to a combination of various issues, including soaring energy costs, war in Ukraine, rising inflation and recession fears.

“Total recognised losses of £1,604,889 were recorded, compared with the total recognised gains of £351,354 in the previous year. A very massive decline of £1,956,243.

“The Union’s income or turnover totalled £1,090,832 this year, compared with £1,052,362 in the previous year.

“This is a marginal increase of £38,470. With the increase in the cost of sales from £193,216 to £332,073, coupled with increasing operating expenses from £1,540,951 to £1,695,315, the operating loss has increased from £681,805 to £936,556 this year, a further loss of £254,751.

“Although an increase in the Union’s income was recorded in the year, the Union continues to experience a decline in its two main sources of income – the sale of pass cards and income from annual fees. The income reduced by £32,021 from £659,037 in 2021 to £627,016. On investments alone, we moved from a gain of £917,388 in 2021 to a loss of £720,071, a downturn of £1,637,459.

“This, coupled with the operating loss of £936,556, accounted for the very poor result recorded in the year.

“We have depended on positive results from investments over the past years. A strategy, I stressed last year, that is not sustainable.

“This year, we have been hit with a very poor performance in the stock market which has impacted heavily on our financial performance. Raising our



Paul Maynard MP was a guest speaker at the Annual Meeting



The Officers were joined on the stage by the 11 members of the NEC

operational results is a more sustainable strategy.

“An improvement in the take-up of the Union’s associate and pass cards will go a long way in achieving this, thereby securing the future of the Union.

“The Union’s balance sheet is still healthy but its net assets are down by £1,606,014 from £7,090,699 in 2021 to £5,484,685 this year. A 23% fall.

“I will now address the last section of your annual report following on from the financial statements, which gives a brief summary of the results of your individual branches for the year.

“Your 22 branches returned a total recognised loss of £225,718, compared with a loss of £1,670 the previous year.

“The losses have increased by £224,048. Eighteen branches returned net losses. This compares with 12 out of 24 branches in 2021. The net assets for the branches has reduced from £2,143,355 in 2021 to £1,917,637 in 2022.

“Over the years, the Union has supported our member clubs in various ways by providing advice and services that cater for their welfare and interests.

“I will reiterate again our

commitment to achieving this in a more sustainable way which will ensure our continued existence into the long term. We shall continue to tighten our expenditure base, but must equally increase our income levels.

“In the year to September 2022, we returned a loss of £1.6 million, and have net assets worth £5.5 million. Difficult decisions will need to be made regarding our future.

“While appreciating the support of our member clubs over the years, I must also add that we shall be relying on them to support this mission to create a more sustainable Union.

“I would just like to finish with the words of a famous author, T. Harv Eker.

“It says: ‘The only way to permanently change the temperature in the room is to reset the thermostat.’

“In the same way, the only way to change our level of financial success permanently is to reset our financial thermostat.

“Mr President, I would like, as usual, to thank B. H. Accountancy, our auditors, for their expert advice given throughout the year, and to wish you all success in the management of your

clubs. Thank you, Mr President. “

**ELIZABETH HAUGHEY** of West Midlands Branch and Heath Gap Welcome Club, Cannock moved to accept the Financial Statement.

**STAN SUMMERS**, Vice-President of Durham Branch and President of Darlington Working Men’s Club, seconded the Motion to accept the Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement for 2022 was accepted by delegates.

The next speaker was CIU Solicitor **ALLYN WALTON** who outlined how his role at the Union ensures that CIU clubs have access to affordable legal services in they key areas of Employment Law, Contract Law, Defamation Law, Arbitration Law and Constitutional Law.

He noted some of his recent successful actions on behalf of CIU clubs and reminded clubs to get in touch with him via Head Office or through their local branch if they need help with any legal problems.

## THE MOTIONS

### MOTION 1

#### Union’s Constitution

#### Change of Rule 20. Council Meetings

*The General Secretary shall 8 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE AGM in each year, send to each club a preliminary agenda of the business to be transacted.*

*A club with the authority of its Branch Council (or Branch Executive if no Branch Council can be held), a Branch or the National Executive may submit in writing an amendment to a Motion contained in the preliminary agenda to the General Secretary not later than 6 WEEKS PRIOR TO MEETING, TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND A STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET.*

The Motion was proposed by **UNION GENERAL SECRETARY KENNETH D GREEN CMD ACM** and seconded by **JACK HAUGHEY CMD ACM**, NEC Member and West Midlands Branch Secretary  
*Motion 1 was passed.*

### MOTION 2

#### Leicester Branch Motion – Year card proposal

## THE 159th ANNUAL MEETING

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*The current pass card be discontinued and replaced with a new card called the Year Card.*

*The words Year Card would be displayed across the centre of the card replacing the year date.*

*The statement displayed on the current card says (this certifies that Payment has been made to the Union covering pass cards for 2022.)*

*The new statement would say 'This certifies that payment has been made to the Union covering the year card for \*\*\*\* this being the individual's contribution to the Union'.*

The Motion was proposed by **DAVID ROLLASON**, Secretary of Latimer Ward Club and Leicestershire Branch Executive Member.

He said: "Morning, Mr President, National Executive members, fellow delegates. I, like a lot of people in this room today, have attended many, many union AGMs over the last 40 years. In fact, only missing one due to ill health. In that period of time, I have witnessed many, many debates on various topics, including the price of pass cards, etc.

"I just want to highlight one or two things that I've noticed in previous *Club Journals*.

"In the November issue of the *Club Journal*, our Secretary, Mr Kenneth Green, points out that 'help is required to safeguard the future of our Union as an organisation, or we face financial oblivion. As the current crisis continues, the Union which was founded over 160 years ago will cease to exist within a few years. The 2022 Financial Statement report that the Union has showed an operating loss of over £681,000, which comes on the back of several years of further losses'.

Mr Green said that it's clear that radical steps are needed to ensure the future of the organisation which has been a positive force in British society since 1862.

"Also in the same issue, the Editor Stephen Goulding, stated that the General Secretary is determined to find a way to make the Union more profitable and asked for feedback and suggestions from club officials.

"In the December issue, [PRESIDENT] Mr George Smith, urges clubs to pay their overdue annual fees, underlining the importance of the

sale of pass cards to the members for the overall financial health of the Union, and its ability to give support to the clubs.

"They ask that you, if they haven't done already, pay your overdue fees and, as well, encourage your members to buy a pass card.

"Why encourage when our Union rules, Rule 8, clearly state that the club must hold a fully paid share into the Working Men's Club and Institute Union Limited, in order that each member of the club may be entitled to all privileges of the Union subject to withdrawals.

"A person on becoming a member of the club 'shall' – not 'if', 'could', 'maybe', 'if you want' – the rule clearly states: 'Shall be supplied with an associate and pass card at the privilege rates charged by the Union for any period for which it has paid the subscription, or granted membership of the club'.

"May I also quote, from the Leicestershire point of view, the officers of the committee of the Leicestershire Branch have asked me to express growing concern regarding the continuing fall in the sale of pass cards. You've heard various things today, people relating to pass cards and the sales, and the decline of sales.

"Pass cards are the major source of the income of the Union and its branches, if not the biggest, and if the trend continues, there will be no Union or branches left.

"Over the last few years, a number of branches have already closed, and this trend just cannot continue. You only have to look at the last Annual Report to see a number of branches are not in a very healthy position.

"There are a number of reasons for the drop in the sale of pass cards. A lot of the clubs have closed over recent years. In the Union heyday, we had over 4,000 clubs. Now, we have just over 1,200. So, this is obviously the major reason for the fall of pass cards.

"This situation is compounded by the fact that because there are fewer clubs and they are located further apart, members are finding it more difficult to visit associated clubs.

"They do not drive because of the drink driving laws, it's too far to walk,

and taxis can be too expensive, so some members do not bother with a pass card.

"Some clubs are allowing that to happen and giving them that choice. As an example, not too many years ago, the Leicestershire Branch had six clubs in the centre of Leicester, all within half a mile of each other, which allowed members to walk from one to the other.

"We now only have one club left in the city centre, and the nearest one to that is in fact my club, a couple of miles away.

"There are other reasons some clubs are allowing a person to join the club as a member, and that person has a choice whether they purchase the associate and pass card.

"Most clubs have rules that a person on becoming a member, like I've just quoted, shall be supplied with the associate and pass card, 'shall' being the operative word, not 'perhaps', 'maybe' or 'please yourself'. Recently, the Leicestershire Branch took on eight clubs from the Derbyshire Branch which is now closed, the remaining clubs going to South Yorkshire Branch.

"Between the eight ex-Derbyshire clubs, they purchased 85 2022 pass cards. Three of those clubs have none. South Yorkshire have experienced the same result. No wonder why we lost, sadly, Derbyshire. Clubs are just not purchasing their full allocation. For example, we had one club that has nearly 2,000 members but has just 40 pass cards, making it a joke.

"When a club joins a Union, surely all its members follow suit and become members as well, and are issued with a pass and associate card because, at the end of the day, they own the club, but as we know, this does not happen.

"So, it looks like the pass card has come to its end of life, or the terminology no longer exists. We are suggesting a complete new format to the National Executive to consider.

"The current pass card would cease to exist, therefore removing all the excuses I've mentioned earlier on, and a new card produced that could possibly be called the year card, where the current card shows the year in bold numbers that would replace in bold letters year card.

"Beneath the letters a similar



Delegates voted on three Motions during the 159th Annual Meeting, passing Motion 1 and Motion 3

statement from the one at the moment with a new format which would read 'This certifies that payment has been made to the Union covering the year card for this period individual's contribution to the Union.'

"The cost of the card should remain the same as the present £3.50 which is less than a penny a day. It's still good value.

"The amount of the year card issued for the individual clubs would be based on the amount of clubs declared on the annual return form, therefore every member should have one.

"The cards for entering to other CIU clubs would be the associate card which then means exactly that, with the card carrying the person's specimen signature as proof of identity, which should be compared to the one that they put in the associate book, and accompanied with the year card as proof of payment for that year.

"Each member of the club would hold an associate card to sign by that person at present. This would be a one-off purchase which would last a lifetime of the person for the cost again, £3.50, which is still good value.

"May I quote what the Vice-

President, Mr Ken Roberts, said from the January issue of the *Journal*? 'To my mind, we should be mighty proud of our clubs and the safe, friendly environment they provide for all walks of life, and shout out our many achievements from the rooftops.'

"I agree with Mr Roberts, so I say to you all here today, do you support the Union or not? I propose the Motion."

The Motion was seconded by **MALC JONES**, Vice-President of Leicestershire Branch.

Opposing the Motion, **ALAN PRESTON**, President of York City Branch, said: "This is not going to change anything because you've got your year on your pass card already.

"It doesn't make them buy any more. As soon as they buy an associate card, the following year, they might not buy one at all. They've still got the lifetime thing.

"I've got four of them for the four clubs I play games with, and part of the Union is that to play Union games, you need a pass card and an associate card. I can't see why getting the printout and stuff for another form of card is going to change.

"It's not going to achieve anything.

You've got your year card which is 2023 next year, 2024. This year card doesn't do anything for me, I'm afraid, and that's all I've got to say, thank you very much."

Speaking in favour of the Motion, **JOHN THOMPSON** from the Langham Club, said: "If I was to understand the Motion correctly, the idea is that it becomes compulsory – is that right? So, it will change things because people won't have the choice to not buy one, they'll be compelled to buy one.

"Could I also propose we set a time, maybe two years' time, where the price goes up to £5? Just doing some quick sums. If we have 1,200 clubs, let's say an average of 200 members, £5 a year, that's £1.2 million or something?"

"I'm not proposing it, I'm just making a suggestion because that would obviously massively help the financial situation of the CIU, but yeah, I'm in favour of the Motion because obviously right now people are choosing to not buy the passes which harms the money for the CIU.

"As I understand, the Motion makes that compulsory, so it does change things."



NEC Member Nathan Clarke proposed Motion 3 regarding the name change of the Union which was passed by delegates

Speaking against the Motion, **PETE SNELL** of the Mildmay Club said:

“Good morning delegates and President. We’re honoured to have Pete Brown amongst our members. I can fully support the principles behind this Motion, but I don’t think anyone’s thinking it through.

“We are a club that now has 1,200 members and we do what the rule book says. Every single one of them, when we take them on, is told you have to affiliate to the national body and pay your three quid every year, and we get the cards and we get the stickers to do that.

“The sad thing is, at the moment, it’s fine because we’ve got annual cards, and they come to collect their cards and, at the same time, if they know what they’re doing, they pick up the stickers to make sure it’s kept up to date. The sad thing is we don’t have that many CIU clubs around us.

“We’ve got the Walthamstow Trades Hall, we’ve got the Langham Club up the road, but most people don’t actually use it from one year to the next.

“So we’re moving to a new system, and there’s good reasons for it; when you’re a big club, it’s more difficult to

comply with licensing.

“So, next year, when we expect on our current rate of growth to have 1,500 members, I would also hope we are going to have a lifetime card which you use to get into the club and tells the bar if you’re a paid-up member. It makes sure we cover our guests, it keeps us compliant with the licensing regulations, because when you’ve got the successful club, you’ve got to have better systems.

“Now, this Motion is suggesting that, at a time when we as a club need to get rid of a card that’s out of date – and it’s a hell of a lot of work when you’ve got that number of people putting the fresh stickers and the fresh names on a card every year – we’re still going to be printing out endless individual cards.

“Quite honestly, all it’s going to do is create a massive backlash from our members saying ‘why are you generating this plastic mountain every year when most of us never actually use any other CIU clubs?’

“At this time we should be talking about moving with the times and getting an electronic solution.

“I’m sorry, this {Motion} is backward

looking. I fully support the intention that every club does what we do, which is say when you join this club, you become a CIU member. Most people respect the movement, most people are happy to do that in the same way some people hardly use the club, but actually like to donate to its future. They’re happy to donate to the future of the CIU.

“But making it explicit that, by the way, you’re paying £3 a year for a card that you never use as the mountains of uncollected cards builds up behind the bar. Forget it. I’m going to be voting against it. I just don’t understand it.”

**DAVID ROLLASON**, Secretary of Latimer Ward Club and Leicestershire Branch Executive Member, added:

“The important thing is to adhere to the Rules. Rules they say you shall purchase the pass cards.”

*Motion 2 failed.*

### **MOTION 3**

#### **Change of Rule 1: Name change**

*The name of the Union to be changed by removing ‘Working Men’s’. The Union to be called Club and Institute Union (CIU).*

Motion 3 was proposed by NEC

Member **NATHAN CLARKE** who said: “First of all, put your minds at rest, this motion is not a case of the CIU going woke. No, this is simply a case of a minor name change which we believe will have a huge positive effect for our clubs and for this great organisation, and will better reflect the realities of our clubs in 2023 and going forward, where women members have just as much of a stake in their clubs as the men.

“This change will help to alter people’s perceptions of the CIU and its clubs, and will bring new people into the club movement, people who may have been put off coming through our doors because they are not working men.

“Obviously, everyone in this room knows how fantastic our clubs are. We need to get that message out to everyone, and this name change will help us to do just that.

“I believe that it’s the right thing to do, and will help clubs to bring in new members, new people who will help to make those clubs stronger and, by extension, strengthen the Union.

“Of course, clubs will be absolutely free to call themselves what they want just as they are now. It is just the title of the Union that we want to change.

“And remember, most people, including ourselves, refer to the organisation as the CIU already, and we use the CIU on letters that are sent out from head office, so it is not a big change anyway.

“We are very rightly proud of the 161-year history of this Union, and forever grateful to the founding fathers of our movement. This is now time to ensure that everyone within and outside the CIU understands that our clubs are there for everyone.

“Please support this Motion and help to show the world that CIU clubs are not places of the past, but modern, welcoming venues for all, with a bright future.

“I hope you all will agree and vote in favour of the Motion that the Union name be changed from the Working Men’s Club and the Institute Union Limited to The Club and Institute Union Limited, CIU.

“Therefore Mr President, I formally

propose this motion.”

The Motion was seconded by **STEPHEN FOSTER CMD ACM**, NEC Member for Durham, who said: “Good morning, delegates, Mr Chairman. I remember in the good old days when all you had to do fill the club was open the doors. How times change.

“The law changes, society and culture changes, and Covid increased the competition from supermarkets whose responsibility ends at the checkout. So, we really need every advantage we can get. We must be seen to be politically correct to achieve any concessions.

“Having ‘Working Men’s’ in our name implies we don’t embrace equality, but as we all know, our clubs are the most welcoming and safest places in the UK.

“I understand the sentiment and passion for tradition, but removing Working Men’s Club from our name could change the public’s perception of the CIU, that we are a modern and inclusive organisation.

“Pete Brown said some of the things I was going to say – thanks for that, Pete. We’ll hopefully get some good press. This could be a big news item. Maybe we should invite people to give the club a try.

“What I wouldn’t change however is our history or heritage, and certainly not my memories from 50-odd years as a club member.

“Sometimes, delegates, you have to compromise your principles for the sake of progress. I second the Motion.”

Speaking in support of the Motion, **ALAN PRESTON**, President of York City Branch, said: “Fellow delegates, if memory serves me right in the Winter Gardens seven years ago, I’d said exactly the same as this, and it got poo-pooed, but we don’t live in the past.

“I said change the Working Men’s bit to the CIU because the women MPs down in parliament, if they see the ‘Working Men’s’ bit in the title, may not look favourably on the Union.

“I support Nathan, even though I did this exact same speech about seven years ago. Thank you.”

Speaking against the Motion, **STAN SUMMERS**, Vice-President of Durham Branch and President of Darlington Working Men’s Club said:

“Mr President, members of the executive, fellow delegates.

“I spoke on this about three or four year ago, and I brought into it the sentiment of me being unwilling to lose what we have already got, especially the ship building and things like that. I’m not going to mention that again, but I do believe that we want to continue to carry on as we are now.

“I’ve listened this morning very interestedly to Peter Brown. He has said some points there which I’ve never thought of. But why change something that we’ve got, when nothing is wrong? Maybe we need to look at ourselves, change other things, change the way we operate with Facebook and things like that.

“I’m long in the tooth and I’m one of these people who carries on with traditions. My members tell me what they want, and they continue to want to be a Working Men’s Club. So, I’m saying I speak against the Motion.”

Speaking in favour of the Motion, **DAWN PAYLOR**, Secretary of Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club, said: “I’ve been a Secretary of my club for the past 11 years. I would like to share with you all a few reasons why I wholeheartedly support this Motion. My predecessor, Jackie Medley, attended the CIU AGM in Blackpool to fight for women’s rights to join the CIU.

“Back in the day, women couldn’t buy pass cards, women could not play CIU games, women didn’t have a voice in the Union despite being members of their own clubs. Eventually, she succeeded in women being allowed to join the CIU.

“Why is it called Working Men’s? Women should not be ignored. They also run the clubs. They also work behind the bar. Times have changed, and the CIU has to move with these times. It is a collective. Quite simply, it is working men and women.

“Myself, I’m a working lady. All these ladies, they’re working ladies. We are not taking anything away from the working men. The working men should be honoured for the heritage and services, but not at the cost of excluding half of the population.

“In conclusion, this Motion should

be passed as there should be no distinction between gender in the CIU. This Motion speaks for fairness, for equality and for the working women of the Club & Institute Union. Thank you.”

Speaking in favour of the Motion, **PAT O'BRIEN** of Cricklewood Trades Hall, said: “I’ll be honest, it’s not very often that my clubs sends delegates to the Annual Meeting. In fact, the last time that we did this was the one referred to at the Winter Gardens seven years ago, and I spoke along the same lines that I’m speaking about now, and some of those who spoke against the Motion at that time said it wasn’t sexist, it was just tradition.

“Well, as far as I’m concerned, it is a sexist term, and voting in favour of this Motion does absolutely nothing to diminish the rich history of the CIU. In fact, quite the contrary. I’m glad I came today.

“Pete Brown came out with some excellent suggestions there. Very simple, but they are actually very progressive and I think they can take things forward, but the person speaking against the Motion said you can use these suggestions and yet spoke against this Motion.

“As far as I’m concerned, those two things are totally incompatible. I feel so strongly about this.

“As I said, we don’t often send delegates. When I saw this Motion on the agenda, myself and my colleague down there, said we would travel at our own expense purely because we feel so passionately about this.

“The last time, 60% voted for this Motion, but it didn’t achieve the two-thirds majority, and I think it’ll be a very, very sad reflection on this Union if that happens again.

“If it’s talking about being serious about going forward and progressing, if you don’t pass this today, it’ll be an absolute shame on the Union, and I think it’s vital that you pass this Motion. Thank you very much.”

NEC Member **NATHAN CLARKE** added: “I understand what Stan {Summers} said, I take that on board. I’m the Secretary of my club and I’ve got women on the Committee. I fully support this lady {Dawn Paylor} and I

hope you all fully support this Motion. *Motion 3 was passed.*

### **THE ADDRESS BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY, KENNETH D GREEN CMD ACM**

“Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

“May I begin with a thank you all for making the effort to attend today, and the trade show yesterday, which appeared to be as successful, if not more so, as previous shows, where I’m sure you took the opportunity to meet all the different suppliers in attendance and discovered new ways to keep our clubs afloat in these trying times.

“I also hope you enjoyed a little entertainment last night at the inaugural CIU Showcase event at the Viva venue and are not suffering from over-indulgence.

“As you are no doubt aware, an Annual General Meeting is both a requirement of the Union’s Constitution and a legal requirement of the Financial Conduct Authority as it is in all our clubs.

“You have no doubt heard me before on how we are one of the most democratic organisations in the country, if not the world, and the mere fact that we are here today proves that point.

“Most, if not all of you here today, will be aware of the efforts of the Union to provide an education system whose sole aim is to ensure our clubs continue to serve our members in the coming generations.

“This is called the Award in Club Management, which is delivered as a modular education system which, when completed over three parts, gives the learner the ammunition to return to their clubs and ensure the survival of the business, and makes sure of the continued growth of the club.

“The *Club Journal* and our website has all the details of these courses which are run throughout the year, and hopefully covering the whole of the country. We strive to publish the *Club Journal* as our prime method of information to our clubs, and I implore you, at least once per month, to read the copy sent to all clubs where you may be quite surprised at the content

and maybe see something which will be of benefit to your club and its members.

“I personally have around 50 years of service to clubs, having started on my parent club’s committee at the age of 22 – the same age as Nathan, really – and have never lost sight of the fact that we are there to serve the members or our respective clubs.

“I receive too many complaints, both as a Branch Secretary and General Secretary, where certain unscrupulous people think it is their club to do as they please, like going out of the Union because they want to liquidate the club and ensure only they profit from the sale of the club, or take the club over and trade as a proprietary club, thus disenfranchising all members, a point which grates on me as these people are usually ripping off their family and friends among the wider community, who they have known sometimes all their lives.

“Another ruse by unscrupulous people is to ignore the rules on arbitrations.

“When a member, either suspended or expelled, complies with the rules, and applies to the Union for arbitration, and the club either ignores the member, or decides by themselves there is no need for the Union and refuses to comply with the club’s own rules.

“They then tend to blame the Union when they lose an arbitration, and remove the club from the Union, often with the members having no idea they are no longer in the Union until the member tries to buy a pass card for the next year.

“Quite often, the only reason a club loses an arbitration is because the committees have failed to apply the rules as they stand, and they try and shout that it is the Union’s fault when it is quite clearly their own incompetence in not following the rules of the club.

“If a club committee expect members to adhere to the rules, it goes hand in hand that the management committee should also adhere to the rules.

“A well-used phrase is ‘What does the Union do for our club?’. Well, here goes – we’ll still be here at ten o’clock like George says. Arbitrations, which have

the ability to keep clubs out of the reaches of the legal profession, and all its associated costs.

“Advice, which covers all the situations clubs and committees can find themselves in, is available for all the branches and the NEC to cover most problems.

“Legal advice at heavily subsidised rates through our in-house solicitor, Allyn Walton, and not forgetting the discounted rates of PRS, PPL which the Union have achieved over the years which, when applied, more than covers the initial annual fee that the club pays the Union.

“When licensing authorities start to hassle clubs with sometimes false requirements, such as trying to put restrictions on your licence when they know full well they are not allowed to under the Licensing Act, we are a phone call away to advise on correct procedure.

“An example comes from the North East. Allyn’s already gone into this, where a club had a noise abatement notice imposed on them in total contradiction of the Licensing Act which was successfully resisted by Allyn.

“Another part of our business being ripped off on an industrial scale is energy supply. If you attended the trade show yesterday, you will no doubt have seen a stand with a company called Ethical Utilities who aim to pursue refunds from energy suppliers who have used brokers who have not declared their commissions to the end user – us.

“Energy brokers are not a regulated industry, so have in the past ridden rough shod over all sorts of legislation, even to the point of forging signatures of club signatures on letters of authority. I know that because it happened in my own club – not me, by the way, but somebody else.

“If you have any doubts about your brokers, and I’m sure that there are many, contact Ethical Utilities who, although they charge 30% of any claim, they also work on a no win-no fee basis, so really it’s a no-brainer and you could receive 70% of all the commissions paid to brokers that you don’t know about.

“I will say at this point not all brokers are rogues, so not all clubs will receive



The Annual Meeting concluded with an address by General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM

pay-outs, but until you try, you’ll never know.

“I know a lot of clubs have yet to recover from the depths of the pandemic, which did decimate the whole of our industry.

“It is up to us to attempt to bring back the good old days of full clubs and healthy balance sheets. Gone are the days when you open the doors of the club to be met with a queue of members waiting to sit in their favourite seats.

“May I humbly suggest we will listen to all our members and find out what they want.

“Not all suggestions will be viable, and not all occasions, but I feel sure that the combined experience of old and new can meet in the middle and continue our great traditions of community and helpfulness, and keep up the first rule of

every club – to carry on the business of the club by providing for the use of its members the means of social intercourse – I said social intercourse – mutual helpfulness, mental and moral improvement, rational recreation and advantages of a club.

“I wish to thank you for listening to my personal diatribes, and I hope if only one sentence of this speech either saves a club or moves a club back onto the road to success, I believe I will have succeeded in my ambition of doing my best in the position I hold.

“As a great philosopher once said, I don’t know why we are here, but I am pretty sure it’s not to enjoy ourselves!

“Have a safe journey home and we hope to see you next year.

“Thank you very much.”

**THE PRESIDENT** declared the Annual Meeting closed.